1: Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1940
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GEOGRAPHY

Few places on the earth are more isolated than Easter Island, lying 1,600 miles from Mangareva and about 1,100 miles from Pitcairn, the nearest inhabited islands, and about 2,230 miles from the South American coast. It is the easternmost Polynesian island. Its exact position is 27° 08′ 6″ south latitude and 190° 25′ 54″ west longitude (fig. 1, *a*). The island is triangular in shape with a total area of about 55 square miles. It is exactly 9 miles long from southwest to southeast, 9 2/3 miles from west-northwest to east-southeast, and 13 miles from northeast to southwest.

Easter Island is a typical volcanic island, formed by a series of eruptions originating on the floor of the ocean. Recent petrographic analyses show that no rocks of continental type occur in the structure of the island (11, p. 1609).[1] The lapilli in the ashes of Rano-raraku are exclusively volcanic; no traces of metamorphic rock have been detected (50, p. 41). All craters are extinct and there is no evidence of recent action.

Soundings have revealed depths of 1,145 fathoms at 10 miles from the coast and 1,770 fathoms at 20 miles, thus establishing the existence of a submerged platform around the island "of unknown extent which attains depths generally of 30 to 40 fathoms a mile from the shore" (50, p. 35).

The triangular shape of the island is due to the position of three large volcanoes at the angles—Te Revaka (Rano-aroi) at the northwest point, Rano-kao at the southwest point, and Puakatiki at the eastern point (fig. 1). The highest summit is Te Revaka, generally called Rano-aroi after a small crater lake (*rano*) on its southeastern slope. It is about 1,730 feet above sea level and forms part of the bulkiest volcanic mass of the island. This complex area is composed of a cluster of cones and craters extending in several directions. The water contained in the Rano-aroi constitutes a shallow marsh, overgrown with bulrushes, which overflows into a gorge and a partly underground channel (11, p. 1594). On the northern and western sides of this land mass, wave erosion has developed precipitous cliffs 500 to 600 feet high.

Rano-kao is about 1,050 feet high. Its crater, filled by a fresh-water lake nearly a mile wide and 390 feet above sea level, is the most important reservoir on the island, though it is thickly carpeted with peat, leaving but small openings of free water. The lake, surrounded by steep cliffs, is accessible at only a few places. The shores of the lake, sheltered and humid, support abundant vegetation. Most of the trees growing in the interior of the crater are of recent introduction but in ancient time the vegetation was also more luxuriant here than in any other spot on the island. Here too, bulrushes and reeds are plentiful. The southern side of Rano-kao has been eroded by wave action to form a vertical

[1] Numbers in parentheses refer to Bibliography, p. 421.

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103
131
133

Vai-mata
Cave Hau
Ahu Rumotu
Hangoteo bay
Papa-te-hara
Papa-te-kena
Te Ava
Hanga-ohio
Anakena cove
Ure-mamore Pt.
Ovahe bay
Hanga-kihikihi
Vai-pahu
Ahu-te-pito-te-kure
Hanga-o-honu
Mauku-roa
Hanga-o-ao
Taharoa bay
Hanga-tavaka
Kai Hahatua
Pokokoria
Ahu-rikiriki
Poike
Ana-te-ava-nui
Marotiri
Hanga-takaure
Hanga-nui
Hanga-tuuhata
Te Haangai
Tame
Hanga-maihiku
Hanga-kapi
Hanga-te-tenga
Rungavae
Opipiri
Akahanga cove
Eu
Motu-o-papa
Huarava
Koekoe Pt.
Pukuauke
Pakeie
Motu-oru
Hanga-tee
Tarakiu
Tahu
Motu-roa
Hanga-paukura
Papa-tangaroa-hiro
Hanga-hahave
Mosi-a-umu
Ahu-mea
Vinapu
Vaiatare
Ahu-rikiriki
Orongo
Motu-kaokao
Motu-iti
Motu-nui
Hanga-piko
Ana-kai-tangata
Mataveri
Apina-iti
Ahu Puna-pekupohu
Ahu Okahu
Ahu Haivaravara
Ana-koiroroa
Tahai
Ahu Akapu
Mokopiki
Tuki-haka-hevari
Motu-tautara
Ahu-te-peu
Atuopuna
Ohau
Opea
Mailakitemoa
Hamea
Te Revaka
Rano Aroi
Ana-o-hoka
Te Henga
Mt. Tuu
Vai-tea
Rano-raraku
Apepe
Maunga-puhipuhi
Pui
Tuapa
Tautara
Poike
Rano Kao
Punapau
Church
Orito
Vaihu
Ana-kai-tangata
Ana-kaiotara
Ana-te-pahu
Ana-te-tahu
Ana-te-pahu
Ana-te-tahu
Ana-te-pahu
Ana-te-tahu

2:Ferdon A-5 (1956) 1957
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NOTES ON THE PRESENT-DAY EASTER ISLANDERS

EDWIN N. FERDON, JR.

EASTER ISLAND, or Rapa-nui, is one of the most isolated high islands in all of Polynesia, being approximately 2,100 miles west of Chile and 1,100 miles east of Pitcairn, the nearest inhabited island to the west. Discovered by Roggeveen in 1722 and visited during the 18th and 19th centuries by such well known Pacific explorers as Cook, La Pérouse, and Beechy, its extreme isolation, tree-barren slopes, and, quite possibly, its lack of good anchorage kept European contact to a minimum. Even today regular contact with the outside world is an annual affair conducted by the Chilean Navy. For years the island was virtually ignored, except for some Catholic missionaries, until Chile, in 1888, took formal possession. Easter Island has, however, never been truly occupied by Chile in the sense of maintaining a permanent settlement of continentals. In time Chile came to lease over four-fifths of the island to a British wool-growing company, and the natives were relegated to the remainder of the land around Hangaroa village. This commercial arrangement continued until 1934 when the government refused to renew the lease and turned over the running of the island, including the sheep ranch, to its Navy personnel.

As a result of the lack of interest in colonization, and the development of ranching interests, the island's foreign population has been kept small. In 1917 there were twenty-one Whites on the island, in 1922 only six, in 1934 thirteen, and today about 30.[1] Except for the church, and the founding of a regular government school in 1934,[2] there appears to have been little intentional effort to convert the natives to Chilean culture. However, owing to the legally enforced requirement that the British wool company maintain a store with such native necessities as cloth, clothing, and various tools and equipment, the islanders came to depend more and more upon the annual shipment of these Chilean products, and less and less upon their environmentally impoverished homecraft manufactures. Owing in part to this situation, acculturation has moved steadily forward on the material culture level and, because it is readily observable, has tended to mask any lags that may exist in the social and psychological patterning of Rapa-nui culture.

1 I. Drapkin, *Contribution to the Demographic Study of Easter Island* (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Occasional Papers, vol. 11, no. 12, p. 4, Honolulu, 1935).

2 *Idem*, p. 7.

3:Drapkin D-5 (1934-1935) 1935
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rium existing between the number of individuals of both sexes, not only in the total number, but also at most of the different stages of life (45 adolescents of the two sexes, for instance); secondly, the large number of old women compared with the old men—only 4 old men over 50, but 18 old women, one of them almost 95 years old (Paulina Viriamo).

DENSITY

Easter Island has an area of approximately 17,900 hectares. The natives have the use of only 2,000 hectares, for the other 15,900 hectares belong to the Produce Company, by virtue of a concession. If from these 2,000 hectares are deducted the government lands and such establishments as roads, the common, the church, school, cemetery, the land of the Commissioner, etc., the extent of the land actually belonging to the natives is reduced to 1,800 hectares, which results in a density of 4 inhabitants to a hectare.

The comparison between the census of Salmon in 1886 and ours in 1934 brings a realization of the rapid increase of the population, which has tripled in less than a half century. The portion of public land occupied by the natives is not one of the most favored for agriculture. If the increase in population continues according to the same rhythm the day will come when the establishment of future families will constitute a veritable problem.

PURE-BLOODED AND MIXED-BLOODED INDIVIDUALS

To distinguish between Easter Islanders of pure and mixed blood is an undertaking not only difficult but indeed impossible. During the whole course of the nineteenth century the island was visited by a great number of ships, the crews of which, on account of the liberty of Polynesian customs, were able to have sex relations with the natives. To these occasional associations there have been added all those which have occurred after the foreign occupation.

It is easy to understand that under such conditions it may be difficult to make a distinction which can claim to be precise between the direct descendants of the old inhabitants and those of mixed blood. Nevertheless, in the hope of making a more or less correct classification, I have resorted to the following method. Taking as a basis the personal information supplied by the individuals themselves, and corroborated by the testimony of the oldest natives and those most reliable in the community, I have considered as pure those who for

4:Metraux E-5 (1934-1935) 1945
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EASTER ISLAND[1]

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(With 4 plates)

A treeless volcanic rock, scarcely 13 miles long and 7 miles wide, slowly being eaten away by the waves and lost in the great emptiness of the Pacific Ocean—2,000 miles off the coast of Chile and 1,500 miles from the nearest Polynesian archipelago—this is Easter Island, the most isolated spot ever inhabited by man. Today it supports a mere handful of natives, mostly half-castes, and many of them lepers. These 450 people, now under Chilean rule, are the only descendants of the men who created there one of the most original civilizations that have left a trace behind. Yet they have all but forgotten their past.

For two centuries, the name of the island has been almost synonymous with mystery. In the world of ethnologists it occupies a place much like that of isles of fancy in children's imaginations.

The sense of mystery which still surrounds this lonely rock was first aroused on Easter Sunday, 1722, when the Dutch Admiral Roggeveen, in command of three frigates cruising about the Pacific in search of the fabulous Davis Land, saw the dome-shaped peaks of its volcanoes jutting above the horizon. From the decks of their ships his sailors, as they drew nearer, could discern all along the cliffs of this unknown shore an army of gigantic statues, which completely overshadowed a small band of naked and noisy savages on the beach below. The visit of the Dutch discoverers did not last long, but they carried back to Europe the strange tale of a solitary, desolate island guarded by colossal stone images, far too heavy and impressive to have been carved and erected by the few primitive people they found living there.

Later in the eighteenth century, and afterward, Easter Island was visited in succession by several other great navigators: Cook, La Pérouse, Kotzebue, Beechey. They, too, saw with amazement the stone monsters, measured them, and even sketched them. To their

[1] Reprinted by permission from The Yale Review, Summer 1939, with revisions and additions by the author. The illustrations did not appear in The Yale Review.

5: Roggeveen T-5 (1721-1722)1908
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the back of the glass, apparently in the expectation of discovering there the cause of the apparition. 123

After we had sufficiently beguiled ourselves with him, and he with us, we started him off again in his canoe towards the shore, having presented him with two strings of blue beads[1] round his neck, a small mirror, a pair of scissors, and other like trifles, which seemed to have a special attraction for him.

But when we had approached within a short distance of the land we saw distinctly that the account of the *Sandy* and *Low* Island (so described by Captain *William Dampier*, in accordance with the statement and testimony of Captain *Davis*, and of the narrator *Lionel Wafer*, whose log of this and other discoveries the aforesaid *Dampier* has made known through the press, and inserted as a prominent feature in his book, which comprises all his own travels and voyages) was not in the least in conformity with our find; and that neither could it be the land which the aforementioned discoverers declare to be visible 14 to 16 miles beyond it and stretching away out of sight, being a range of high land, which the said *Dampier* conjectured might be the extremity of the unknown Southland. That this Easter Island can not be the *Sandy* Island is clear, from the fact that the sandy one is small, and low; whereas *Easter Island*, on the contrary, extends some 15 or 16 miles in circuit, and has at its Eastern and Western points—which lie about five miles from each other—two high hills sloping gradually down, with three or four other smaller hills about their bases which rise above the plain, so that this land is of moderate elevation, and raised above the force of the sea. 131

The reason why, at first, when at a farther distance off, we had regarded the said Easter Island as being of a sandy

[1] The original has *coraelen*, meaning beads.

5: Roggeveen T-5 (1721-1722)1908
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nature is that we mistook the parched-up grass, and hay or other scorched and charred brushwood for a soil of that arid nature, because from its outward appearance it suggested no other idea than that of an extraordinarily sparse and meagre vegetation; and the discoverers had consequently bestowed upon it the term *sandy*.

It may therefore be concluded, in the light of the foregoing explanation, that this *Easter Island* now discovered will turn out to be some other land lying further to the Eastward than that which is one of the objectives of our Expedition: or else, the discoverers must stand convicted of a whole bundle of lies in their reports, told by word of mouth as well as in writing.

8. We had the wind South, South-by East, and Sou'-Sou'-West, with a reefed topsail breeze, unsteady. After breakfast had been served, our shallop was well manned and armed, and likewise the shallop of the Ship *THIENHOVEN*, now close in with the land; and having received their orders, they reported that the inhabitants there were very finely clad in some stuffs of all kinds of colours, and that they made many signs that we should come on shore, but as our orders were not to do so, if the Indians should be present in large numbers, that was not permitted. Furthermore, some thought they had seen the natives to have plates of silver in their ears, and mother-of-pearl shells as ornaments about their necks. By sundown, having come into the roadstead, between the Ships *THIENHOVEN* and *THE AFRICAN GALLEY*, which had already brought to in readiness for us, we let go our anchor in 22 fathoms, coral bottom, at the distance of a quarter of a mile[1] from the beach; the Eastern point of the Island bearing East by South, and the West point West-Nor'-West from us.

[1] About six furlongs.

5: Roggeveen T-5 (1721-1722)1908
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impossible for them to row. Therefore it was deemed well to pull off at once in good order, the which was presently put into practice. Having arrived on board we resolved to sail another hundred miles farther to the Westward so that by thus doing we should punctually follow our Instructions and the Resolution adopted in reference to them, in all details; although, before doing so, we should make a short Cruise away down Eastwards, to see whether we could discover the *Low and Sandy* Island; for, in the event of our finding it, the first portion of our cruise in the South Sea would necessarily terminate, as having accomplished its purpose: the contents of which Resolution are:—

131 COUNCIL of the Commanders of the three Ships sailing in company, held on board the Ship *AREND*, when the Shore Expedition had been despatched and accomplished with three boats and two shallops, well armed and manned.

Friday the 10th of April[1], 1722.

"The President having called together the Commanders of this Expedition, to the end that each one should submit his ideas and opinions concerning the newly found Island, namely, whether in view of this discovery the Resolution considered and adopted by this Council on the 2nd inst. should be punctually observed and fulfilled: or whether, on the contrary, we should proceed on our course another hundred miles Westwards, inasmuch as this land discovered[2] (being called by us *Paasch Eyland*, because it

[1] By a curious coincidence, La Pérouse's visit was also made on the 10th of April: sixty-four years later.

[2] The parenthesis is misplaced in the Dutch Journal, as edited, where it occurs before the word *omdat*, 'inasmuch.' It should obviously be after the word 'discovered' as now translated.

5: Roggeveen T-5 (1721-1722)1908
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was sighted and discovered on Easter Day) can not be said to be a *small, low,* and *sandy* Island, covering as it does an extent of sixteen Dutch miles in circuit and being fairly high land[1], the which was lying 8 or 9 miles away from us when THE AFRICAN GALLEY made the signal of land in sight. As this distance may with safety be deemed correct, seeing that it took us the whole of the following day, with a fresh breeze blowing, to get within a couple of miles or so by eventide. Nor can the aforementioned land be termed *sandy*, because we found it not only not sandy but on the contrary exceedingly fruitful, producing bananas, potatoes, sugar-cane of remarkable thickness, and many other kinds of the fruits of the earth; although destitute of large trees and domestic animals, except poultry. This place, as far as its rich soil and good climate are concerned, is such that it might be made into an earthly Paradise, if it were properly worked and cultivated; which is now only done in so far as the Inhabitants are obliged to for the maintenance of life. And furthermore, it is quite improper to give this discovery the name of a *range of high land*; if one supposes that by ill luck we sailed by the *Low and Sandy* Island without seeing it, the which is not probable, as our course was directed in such wise that we should inevitably have sighted it if so be that this *Easter Island* is the land which is described as being a *range of high land.* Therefore one may conclude with good reason that this *Easter Island* is some other land than any we are seeking, and that one part of our voyage is made good; since it fails to present those characteristics which belong to the land we hope to meet with. The President submits all the above remarks to this Council for consideration, in order to avail himself of its opinions as may be proper.

[1] The highest peak of Easter Island attains 1767 feet. Two others are 1327 and 1323 feet, respectively, above the sea. Cook says, "The hills are of such an height as to be seen fifteen or sixteen leagues."

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"Whereupon, all these points being attentively noted and maturely weighed, it is unanimously resolved that, indisputably, the above-mentioned *Easter Island* does not in the least conform to the description of a *range of high land*, being of only moderate elevation; that, also, it is absolutely impossible that the finer metals should occur here, as we learned by experience from ocular inspection, that the Inhabitants are without any such, and employ as coverings and ornaments only certain produce of vegetable origin; and that they understand sewing these handsomely and neatly together three or four ply in thickness for the sake of warmth and strength. Furthermore that they plait together as ornaments some feathers of the domestic fowl (of which last very few were seen, however) so as to form a circlet worn on the head, and the painting of their faces, and other parts of the body as well, with regular and well proportioned designs after such a manner that one side of the body is in conformity with the other, also some flat shells worn as neck ornaments, and the slit in the ear-lobes plugged with some kind of root (shaped like our parsnips) for adorning the ears. Further, that we have not seen the *small, low*, and *sandy* Island which must be the outlier and true sign of that land we are in search of; therefore it is by unanimous assent agreed upon and declared that we continue the course West along the parallel of 27 degrees of South latitude until we shall have sailed another hundred miles, and on arrival there, we are to be guided by circumstances and to take such action as may then be deemed proper.

"So resolved in the Ship and on the day above stated. (Signed) JACOB ROGGEVEEN, JAN KOSTER, CORNELIS BOUMAN, ROELOF ROSENDAAL."

This resolution being carried and signed, Captain JAN KOSTER suggested, by way of discussion, that it should be

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a very easy and simple matter to ascertain whether the above-mentioned *Easter Island* is really the land we are aiming after and towards which we have directed our course, if we were now to make only a short Cruise by sailing 12 miles Eastwards, and that the Ships should keep two miles apart from each other, but at the same time resume close company if it should happen that a *low* and *sandy* Island should be sighted, which would establish the truth that the aforesaid *Easter Island* is the land we have been minded to discover. And in case we get no view of the said *Sandy* Island that then also the before-named *Easter Island* must of necessity be some other land (although lying right in our track) than that towards which our Expedition is directed. Furthermore, that if the *Sandy* Island should be discovered, a Northerly course should be shaped in order to get into the steadier and stronger trade-wind, for the furthering of the second *item* in our Voyage: since the first would fulfil itself, and thereby terminate, on our meeting with the *Sandy* Island before mentioned. All the which being considered, was approved and adopted by common assent.

So resolved and determined in the Ship and on the day of the foregoing Resolution. (Signed) JACOB ROGGEVEEN, JAN KOSTER, CORNELIS BOUMAN, ROELOF ROSENDAAL.

11. The wind this day was Nor'-Nor'-West and Nor'-West, with a topsail-breeze and rough sea. We laid out the best bower, and sent down the fore and main yards. About the fourth glass of the first watch the Ship *THIENHOVEN'S* working cable parted; and, being hailed to know if she wanted assistance, they answered 'No.'

12. The working cable of *THE AFRICAN GALLEY* carried away about dawn, through which misfortune both

6: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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made to us at three distinct parts of it: from this we concluded it to be inhabited, but without having been able to distinguish any person, nor make out any village, house, shanty, or hut, either on the beach or anywhere close by. At half-past ten in the afternoon, having come up with the North point and being about two miles distant from the land, we observed a troop of people composed of eighteen persons who were walking briskly along the summit of a high ridge, where they all collected together and sat down, remaining in this wise while we passed in view about a gunshot off. We noticed some of them clothed in garments like a *poncho* or cloak, coloured: at the first sight we thought they were European soldiers, but having approached within a mile of them we became satisfied that they were natives, all of them unarmed, and some nude, wearing plumes on their heads.

Being at this position the eastern point of the island bore West, true bearing; and on working out the distance run since the observation at noon I found myself in lat. 27° 2′, and that should be the true position of the east point of David's Island, as far as the latitude is concerned[1]; and in respect of longitude, inasmuch as I found myself at noon to-day to be in 267° 2′ from Tenerife, and as we had been sailing with very slight deviation on the same meridian there remained but one mile difference, allowing for our being that much off the land. I therefore say that according to my calculations as worked out during the passage, the most eastern point of David's Island is placed in 27° 2′ of latitude S. and in 267° 1′ longitude from Tenerife, thus bearing with the Isle of San Lorenzo off the Callao W.S.W. 6° S. and E.N.E. 6° N.E., distant 625 leagues of 20 to the degree; and being 38° West from the meridian of Copiapo, and consequently 680 leagues distant from the Chilian

[1] The actual position is 4½ miles more southerly and 22 miles more easterly, taking Cape O'Higgins as the point referred to.

6: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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continent. The profile of the island facing eastward extends about 14 to 16 miles, and the southern and northern points lie E.N.E. and W.S.W.[1]

Having sailed past the northernmost point we came into view of another bay which indented to the W.N.W., which seemed more convenient than the first: we laid the yards aback and the Commodore lowered his boat, sending her in armed to the said bay and signalling us to do the same. At half-past four in the afternoon our boat went away with Don Juan Bentuza[2] Moreno, Captain of Batallones, and the midshipman Don Joseph Morales, escorted by twelve soldiers, one serjeant, and two corporals equipped with ammunition. The coastal pilot of the frigate and a pilot's mate also embarked, with the instruments of their craft and headed for the bay, where the boat from the Commodore was already taking soundings. We remained under reduced canvas, making short boards off and on, awaiting the return of the exploring party, who, at sunset withdrew, we on board reaching in beyond the centre of the bay to meet them. We saw numbers of natives on the beach. The anchorage they found is wholly unprotected, and the bottom is of bad quality. We passed the night under easy sail, and at times hove to, keeping abreast of the bay.

Friday, 16th. At sunrise I observed the variation of the needle, and noted 2° 30′ to the N.E. At 5 the Commodore lowered his boat and despatched her ashore as soon as he arrived, in quest of anchorage, and we did the same under short canvas; and, lowering all our boats into the water, we passed within about a mile of the eastern

[1] These bearings should probably be reversed, or the words 'Southern' and 'Northern' interchanged. The real direction is S.W. by W. and N.E. by E. true bearing, presuming that the N.E. and not the N.W. point is meant; but the latter is in fact the northernmost headland.

[2] 'Juan Bentuza' is evidently a copyist's error for Buenaventura.

6: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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411 They did the same with a knife and with a cutlass, which they took hold of indifferently by the point or by the hilt.

793 They seem to me to have ministers or priests for their idols; because I observed that on the day which we erected the crosses, when our chaplains went accompanying the holy images, clothed in their cassocks and *pellis*, chanting the litanies, numbers of natives stepped forward on to the path and offered their cloaks, while the women presented hens and pullets, and all cried *Maca Maca*, treating them with much veneration until they had passed beyond the rocks by which the track they were following was encumbered.

689 Sunday, 18th. The natives continued to gather on board in greater number than on the preceding days, so that on this day there have been more than 400 in the frigate. What with men and women they collected in such crowds that it became necessary to send away some in order to make room for others, as we could not contain them on board. To-day at noon I observed the latitude of
●131 this bay with the greatest care, which I found to be 27° 26′; and I began on this same day to make a sketch of it, with an outline and views and exact soundings, in order to construct as accurate a chart of it as possible, and one that might serve as a guide and record for the future; though it must be stated that, on account of certain impediments, it was not possible to fix a base-line on shore for trigonometric operations.

Monday, 19th. At 10 in the forenoon our launches came in sight from the eastern part of the island, and our long-boat was told off to give ours a tow, as she had the wind ahead. The Commodore did the same for his. Our launch arrived alongside at one o'clock in the afternoon, with all her people, after having sailed entirely round the island; and the following account was by this means obtained.

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The island extends to about 50 miles in circumference; but no harbour capable of affording shelter to a single vessel of moderate burthen was met with. The whole of the shore-line is beset with reefs, cliffs, and rough ground, without containing any spot fit to beach a boat at. On penetrating inland in a few places they met with many natives, with whom they held intercourse, and they observed in them the same manners, customs, and ceremonies as in those of this bay; experiencing among them the same disposition to theft. They saw no kind of wild nor domestic animal, excepting hens and some rats. The fields are uncultivated save some small plots of ground, in which they sow beds of *yuca*, yams, sweet potatoes, and several plantations of plantains and sugar-cane: but all very tasteless, as if from want of cultivation. They did not find any metal, nor any ornaments of that kind in the natives' habitations. All this account tallies with the observations we have gathered in this bay, on whose slopes, and on those throughout the island, not a single tree is to be found capable of furnishing a plank so much as six inches in width; but there are plenty of shrubs or brush-wood of a sort little more than an *estada*[1] in height, which offer little obstruction to one in passing as they are not dense and have no prickles. Its trees are very similar to mimosas and tamarinds. Of fruit-bearing trees I have seen only some very small figs, but so different from ours that they are recognisable as such only by the scent of the leaf, and the white juice which exudes from them. It is certain that they bear fruit, because the natives were eating some dry figs on board, which we gave them from those of Mendoza, and they called them *gecoy*. The island is destitute of every kind of bird: not a single bird has been

[1] An *estadal* or *estada* is equivalent to four *varas* of about 33 inches each, *i.e.* 11 feet.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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him. All agreed in the Commodore's opinion, since it coincided with their own. At half-past two in the afternoon those of the frigate returned on board of her, and we resumed our course as before. 000

On this same day, at six in the evening, some sandpipers appeared[1]. These birds are accustomed to fly no more than about fifteen leagues from land; and we remained hove to for the night.

On the 15th at five in the morning we made all sail, and at seven o'clock we sighted an island to the N.W. of us, from 8 to 10 leagues distant. We headed for it, and upon finding ourselves within some three leagues of its Eastern coast we saw it to be all bold and rock-bound, on account of which at noon we decided to bear up for the Northern side and see whether we might find any harbour round there. At this time our position was ascertained by observation to be in lat. 27° 15′ S. and long. 264° 20′, so that the other point[2] should be in 27° 06′ of lat. South, and therefore 34° 10′ to the westward of the meridian of Callao, measured by the arc, or the equivalent of a chord of 30° 30′. On this island we bestowed the name of San Carlos, being that of the reigning king. 131

From the 6th of November[3], which was the day on which we sighted the petrels, until we reached the island of San Carlos, we steered W. a distance of 86 leagues, and the terns were seen for the same distance at the same time.

[1] For 'sandpipers' the MS. has *chorlitos*, a name which is variously given in dictionaries and works on natural history as sandpipers, waders, curlew, plover, redshanks, and the genus *Longirostres* generally. M. D'Orbigny (Bibliog. no. 42) mentions a 'Chorlite des Indes,' *Rhynchoea alba*: and says *chorlito* is a name given freely in Spain to any of the 'chevaliers' and 'échassiers,' which we generically term waders.

[2] i.e. the N.E. point of the island.

[3] This may be a copyist's error. The day on which the petrels were recorded was the 10th. Agüera mentions them on the 12th as having been met with on the previous day, in his journal. Gonzalez himself does not mention them in his log.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
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131 From the 13th of the said month, when we saw so many birds, and amongst them the white ones and the first of these, we continued sailing W. for a distance of 32 leagues; and from the time we saw the sandpipers [*chorlitos*] as far as the island we sailed 10 leagues, so that when we saw them the island lay to the N.W. of us, 13½ leagues off, for which reason we sailed on that course after having sighted the sandpipers and the island: these remarks are interesting only for navigators.

133 [202] On the 15th, after bearing up at noon in quest of a harbour on the north side of the island we noticed, as we closed in with the land, that there were people on shore who were making signals to us by means of smoke, in several parts of this new land; and when we had rounded the north-easternmost point, called after San Felipe, we saw a bay which appeared might prove a good harbour, being then about half a league distant; and we lowered a boat into the water. I embarked in her with Don Alberto Lesuda[1], Captain of Marines, a serjeant, six men, the boat duly equipped, and all hands provided with their respective arms, proceeding with the precaution and care appropriate to the business in hand.

We went in to take soundings of the bay without being acquainted with the character of the natives, or whether they possessed canoes or not. We left the ship at a quarter

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[1] The officer here meant by 'Lesuda,' and in a place where cited farther on as 'Leonda,' is Don Alberto Olaondo, whose substantive rank was that of Teniente de Navio, or a senior Lieutenant in the Navy, although, by a not unusual complication of dignities in that service he was also a Capitan de Infanteria, or as we should say, an officer of Marines. He subsequently received promotion, and in 1779 when war was declared with England he commanded the *Atlante*, a 70 gun ship of the line which formed one of the fleet under the Marqués de Casa Tilly assembled in the Bay of Cadiz to oppose Rodney. His old Easter Island comrades Don Antonio Domonte, and Don Buenaventura Moreno, were also present there, commanding the *San Eugenio* and the *San Nicolas* respectively, each of 70 guns. [Traviesо, Bibliog. no. 50.]

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

103 133 ance, particularly when the slanting rays of the rising or setting sun shine upon them, and at that time especially, when they stand so prominently forth, would readily suggest the human navel, from which it may be inferred that portion of the name of the island might be derived.

Regarding the other word, *kenua*, the *uterus;* can it be that they meant to designate by this term the great volcano Rana Roruka, in whose womb was created, and from whose vitals was born that host of monolithic images which once reared their colossal forms aloft, giant genii guarding these rock-bound shores, and which to-day, prone and mutilated as they are, fill the mind of the voyager with wonder, awe, and admiration?

103 *Hiti te ciranga*, the name said to have been given to the island by the English is, perhaps, a corruption of that above-mentioned, as is certainly also the name *Te Pito fenua*, wrongly stated as signifying "the land in the middle of the sea." The name *Rapa Nui*, signifying Great Rapa, is modern, having been given to the island by the Tahitians twenty years since, to distinguish it from *Rapa iti*, Little Rapa, otherwise called Oparo, an island lying 1,000 miles to the westward, in the direction of the Society Group, which latter is 2,500 miles distant. The name Easter was given the island by Roggeween, who discovered it on Easter Sunday, 1721. It has also been called by various names, such as Teapy and Wailu.

It has often been subject of remark that this propensity of giving new, modern, European names to lands and islands, not only when originally discovered, but often when merely revisited, may be considered as not only in questionable taste, but as leading to endless confusion. The charts and Sailing Directions are replete with instances of that sort, cases occurring when perhaps half a dozen modern and strangely appearing names, each by a different navigator, are applied to one small island or group of islands. The spelling of the native names is also, in many instances, wide of the mark. These strictures may be said to apply with special force to the island under consideration, and, therefore, in these reports and on the corrected chart its ancient name, as well as the native names of its mountains, bays, and headlands, have been adhered to as closely as practicable, while at the same time the greatest care has been exercised in spelling them phonetically as received from the natives.

175 Since its discovery the island has been visited at successive times by Cook and La Perouse; by the H. M. S. *Blossom* in 1825, and *Topaze* in 1868; by the Chilean gunboat *O'Higgins* in 1870 and 1875; by the H. M. S. *Sappho* in 1882, and by the German gunboat *Hyaene* in the same year.

The U. S. S. *Mohican* arrived at the island December 18 and sailed December 31, 1886.

131 The distance to the nearest inhabited island to the westward, Pit-

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
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cairn, is 1,100 miles, and the South American coast is 2,100 miles to the eastward. [3]

The island is irregularly triangular in shape. Its greatest length from NE. to SW. is 13 miles; its greatest width from North Cape to Cape Hoe-Hoe, in a direction from NNW. to SSE., is 7 miles. The circumference, measuring from headland to headland, is about 34 miles, and the area of the island is 34 square miles.

The surface is diversified mountain and plain, the former usually rising abruptly from the latter, and generally at a distance from each other, so that, with one or two exceptions, it can hardly be said that there are valleys, strictly speaking. The mountains—a goodly number in proportion to the area of the island—are mostly cone shaped, and not of very great elevation, the tallest, near Cape North, being but 1,707 feet high. The most extensive plain is at the base of Rana Roraku, extending thence in a westerly direction for several miles, and it is believed that in ancient times a large town existed on this site, in whose vicinity all the monoliths were carved. [33]

The coast line on the southern and western sides, except at the extreme southwest end where Rana Kao looms up, is generally low, but extremely rocky. The northwestern, northern, northeastern, and eastern coasts are a succession of black, frowning, precipitous, basalt cliffs, worn into innumerable caves by the erosion of the sea, and with huge attached bowlders scattered at the base, over and against which the waves dash with resistless fury, forming a veritable iron-bound coast. Many of the caves thus formed have been inhabited and have also been used as burial places; and the remains of human beings, with implements interred with them or secreted by the modern natives, sometimes reward the diligent searcher. [172]

There are but two or three points around the entire coast line at which a sandy beach may be met with. One of these, small in extent, is on the south side, near Mr. Salmon's residence at Vaihu, in a picturesque little bay, used as a bathing ground and boat landing.

Another, and much the larger, forms the beach of Anakana Bay on the north side of the island, the legendary landing place of Hotu Motua, and by far the best and safest boat harbor around the coast.

The soil is for the most part decomposed or disintegrated lava, nowhere of any great depth, but exceedingly fertile and in places, as for example, where excavations were made inside of cairns, it was found of the fineness, color and richness of garden mold. [134]

Except where a few clearings have been made, nearly the entire surface of the island is covered in astonishing profusion with fragments of lava, varying in size from that of a pebble to that of a huge bowlder. They are nearly black in color, hard, sharp, angular, weather-worn; and it is these, in places *covering* the ground, which render pedestrianism so difficult and laborious.

Until supplied with wood from wrecked lumber vessels the modern [342]

11: Lavachery A-5 (1934-1935) 1937
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EASTER ISLAND, POLYNESIA[1]

By Henri Lavachery[2]
Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels

[With 4 plates]

Few places in the world have given rise to more fantastic speculation than this volcanic island, 70 square miles in area, lying in the Pacific Ocean, lat. 27°10′ S., long. 109°20′ W. Actually the so-called "mysteries of Easter Island", or rather the explanations which have been offered, are not the work of trained men of science. It is natural that the huge statues, standing erect as they do in a naked landscape against a background of black and yellow, should have appealed to the poetic imagination. But those who wish to face with candor the problems presented by certain parts of the world may well be annoyed when the poets' lyrical love of mystery becomes the starting point of speculation. The best students of Easter Island have always told us that it was Polynesian and could only be explained by Polynesia.[3] The evidence that we have now obtained is merely an addition to what was already a formidable pile. Nevertheless we expect that before long others will come forward again with tales of a lost continent of Lemuria, submerged beneath the waters of the Pacific; and that Easter Island is one of its peaks, peopled with Lemurian idols!

For geologists are in complete agreement upon this point. If a Pacific continent existed, it was long before the advent of man and

[1] Reprinted by permission, with some changes in the illustrations, from Antiquity, vol. 10, no. 37, March 1936.

[2] Dr. Henri Lavachery, the writer of this article, was the Belgian member of the Franco-Belgian Expedition which visited Easter Island and remained there from July 29, 1934, to Jan. 8, 1935. It was initiated by Prof. Paul Rivet, of the Ethnographical Museum, Paris, and was actually two expeditions—a French one consisting of M. Watelin (who died before reaching Easter Island) and Dr. A. Métraux (of Swiss nationality), and the Belgian expedition represented by Dr. Lavachery. A joint subsidy was made by the Belgian Government and the National Belgian Fund for Scientific Research. The expedition was transported to the island by a French naval vessel and taken off it by the Belgian training ship *Mercator*. The visit of the expedition and the formation of its collections were both greatly facilitated by the Government of Chile, to which Easter Island belongs, who gave the most generous instructions to their representative on the island. After the death of M. Watelin, M. Lavachery assumed responsibility for the archeological work, while M. Métraux had charge of the ethnographical and linguistic investigations. A report on the results of the expedition was published in the Bulletin des Musées Royaux, Bruxelles, May–June 1935, no. 3, pp. 50–63; July–August, 1935, no. 4, pp. 81–90.

[3] Routledge, Mrs. Scoresby, Mystery of Easter Island, 1919.

14: Routledge E-5 (1914-1915) 1917
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EASTER ISLAND

Mrs. Scoresby Routledge, M.A.

Read at the Meeting of the Society, 20 November 1916. Map following p. 400.

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EASTER ISLAND lies in the South-East Pacific some 2000 miles from the coast of South America, and it stands solitary and alone. Its first European discoverer was the Dutch Admiral Roggeveen, who sighted it on Easter Day 1722 and named it in commemoration of the festival. It was subsequently visited in succession, during the latter half of the eighteenth century, by a Spanish expedition under Gonalez, by Cook, and by La Perouse. All these navigators commented on the enormous stone statues which they found on the island, surmounted by large crowns or hats. The Spaniards viewing them from the sea mistook them for big shrubs symmetrically set up; and when they found ther real nature marvelled how natives could erect such figures on the small bases whereon they stood and could put their crowns in place. The Duthmen solved the problem to their own satisfaction by stating that the images were not made of stone but of a compound of clay and flint, and it isinteresting to notice that some of Cook's officers inclined to the same opnion. From that day to this the statues of Easter Island have remained the mystery of the Pacific, and the wonder of the place has been increased by the later discovery that the island at one time possessed wooden ablets carved with hieroglyphics of which no satisfactory translation has beenforthcoming.

The island is nearly as remote from the outside world today as it was in the time of Roggeveen. It is far removed from all trade routes, and is visited in normal times about once a year only by a small schooner from South America. Passing men-of-war have from time to time described the island and its remains, but their sojourn has necessarily been short, the longest visit being that of the United States ship *Mohican* in 1886, which remained for thirteen days. Its problems have therefore emained unsolved. What were these statues? Whom do they represent? Were they made by the ancestors of the present inhabitants or by an ealier people? Whence came the race who reached this remote spot; did they arrive from the mainland to the eastward, or did they sail against the prevailing wind from the distant islands to the west? It has even been conjectured that Easter Island is all that remains of a sunken continent Some six

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